AUTOMATIC STATUS POLLING FAILOVER OF DEVICES IN A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY

CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The subject matter of the present application is related to copending United States application, Serial No. 08/705,358, titled "Distributed Internet Monitoring System and Method", ~~Docket No. 10950901-1,~~ now patent 5,948,055 filed August 29, 1996; copending United States application, Serial No. 08/947,219, titled "Network Management Event Correlation in Environments Containing Inoperative Network Elements", ~~Docket No. 10971522-1,~~ now patent 6,061,723 filed October 8, 1997; and copending United States application, Serial No. 08/551,499, titled "Filtering System and Method for High Performance Network Management MAP, ~~Docket No. 10950101-1,~~ now patent 5,787,252 filed November 1, 1995, all of which are assigned to the assignee hereof and are herein incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to data communications networks and, more particularly, to a system and a method for automatic status polling failover of devices in a distributed data communications network.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A data communications network generally includes a group of devices, or objects, such as computers, repeaters, bridges, routers, etc., situated at network nodes and a collection of communication channels or interfaces for interconnecting the various nodes. Hardware and software associated with